

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 768

By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Newell Jenkins upon his induction into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding citizens who are dedicated to promoting the importance of farming in our society; and

WHEREAS, agriculture has been a cornerstone of Wilson County since the county's founding in 1799, and those citizens involved in agriculture have always been a vital part of the community; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable individual is Newell "Red" Jenkins, who was inducted into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame on April 3, 2012, for his life's work as a farmer and agricultural advocate; and

WHEREAS, born in 1929, Red Jenkins is the son of Harry and Velma Mofield Jenkins and began his illustrious career in agriculture at the tender age of six, transporting feed for the family's hogs in his little red wagon; and

WHEREAS, raised on his family's sawmill in the Rawls Creek community, Mr. Jenkins grew up hauling logs and helping his uncle thrash wheat; and

WHEREAS, Newell Jenkins was joined in holy matrimony with Thelma Bush in 1948, and their blessed union produced two children: Diane Jenkins Marsh and Darrell Jenkins and four grandchildren: Lori Marsh and Aaron, Tabitha, and Tiffany Jenkins; and

WHEREAS, the close-knit family moved to Wilson County in 1955 and purchased 235 acres of land from Mr. Sam Patton Thompson, adding an additional 110 acres to their enterprise in 1966 and forty-three acres a few years later; and

WHEREAS, listening to his entrepreneurial spirit, Mr. Jenkins purchased a local lime and rock business in 1962 and subsequently provided all of the necessary rock to be used in the

construction of the five bridges that cross the Caney Fork River on I-40. While he ceased the rock portion of his business years later, Red Jenkins continues to meet the lime needs of his community to this day; and

WHEREAS, throughout his distinguished career, Red Jenkins has established over 300 acres of improved pastures, eight farm ponds, one fishpond, and six acres of grassed waterways and continues to raise beef cattle, hay, and tobacco, with the help of his son and grandson; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated civic leader and a prominent figure in the agriculture industry, Newell Jenkins has rendered sterling service as a member of the Tuckers Crossroads Grange, Wilson County Farm Bureau, Wilson County Livestock Association, and Tennessee Cooperative Service in both Wilson and Smith counties; he has also been a longtime supporter of the Wilson County 4-H program and the University of Tennessee Extension Service and graciously hosted the National Association of County Agricultural Agents at his farm in 1996; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jenkins is an active and devout member of Hillcrest Baptist Church, where he has faithfully served his Lord for many years; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Mr. Jenkins was named Wilson County Conservation Farmer of the Year in 1973 and 1997, and he and his wife were honored to be named Wilson County Fair "Old Timers" in 2007; and

WHEREAS, the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame honors those dedicated citizens who have committed their lives to developing and maintaining the highest agricultural standards and principles, and it is fitting that this General Assembly pause in its deliberations to honor Mr. Jenkins for his lifetime of achievements; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Newell Jenkins upon his induction into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame and recognize his laudable contributions to upholding the agricultural traditions of Wilson County and the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.